



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SUESUE PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT TO
ATTEMPTED DRUG DISTRIBUTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF CRACK**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on December 7, 2007, Richard Tela Suesue, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, pleaded guilty in federal court to charges of attempted distribution of a controlled substance and distribution of controlled substances.

Suesue, age 29, pleaded guilty to a three-count indictment involving both the distribution and the attempted distribution of cocaine base, or “crack,” before Chief United States District Court Judge John W. Sedwick.

In connection with the guilty plea, Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White advised the court that on two separate occasions, the defendant sold a controlled substance to a government informant. The defendant intended to sell crack both times, but in one instance, he did not properly “cook” the powder cocaine into crack. The substance still tested positive for the presence of cocaine. The total amount of crack and cocaine distributed by the defendant was 14.3 grams.

Judge Sedwick announced that sentencing will take place on February 19, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. The law provides for a maximum total sentence of 5 to 40 years in prison, a fine of \$2 million, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based upon the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Suesue continues to remain in custody pending sentencing.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of Anchorage police officers and FBI agents, conducted the investigation leading to the convictions in this case. SAUSA White is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney’s Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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